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As a medievalist and early modernist, I can only applaud the publication of Łukasz Chwałko's recent film, *The Life and Work of Jacob Böhme* (*Jakob Böhme, Leben und Werk*). Böhme was a highly mysterious and certainly mystical writer (1575-1624) whose visions and subsequent writings exerted a tremendous influence on subsequent spiritual literature in Germany, Poland, Russia, England, and elsewhere. We still have not fully grasped the true extent of his revelations, and continue to probe with great intrigue and fascination the meaning of Böhme's work, in which he questioned the nature of all being, the orthodox path toward God, and explored the opportunities to gain enlightenment through visionary experiences.

Chwałko's film proves to be an excellent visual approach to Böhme, using a very sensitive and appealing mix of images, interviews with scholars, images of his manuscripts, his tomb stone, maps, background music, and photos. The German version, beautifully prepared and well didacticized, is highly useful as an introduction to Böhme's life, work, and ideas, and impressively allows us deep insights into this amazingly influential thinker who is currently attracting ever increasing interest by scholars and the general public.

Prof. Classen has published ca. 100 scholarly books and close to 700 articles on medieval and early modern literature, theology, philosophy, and cultural history, including numerous studies on medieval mystics and early modern spiritualists, such as Jakob Böhme.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Albrecht Classen'.

